

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS PRIORITY TO USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GP
SUBJECT: GREEK REINTEGRATION INTO NATO

REF: STATE 42503 (171644Z FEB 78) (EXDIS)

1. WE CONSIDER PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL AN EXCELLENT
APPROACH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY WE
TOO BELIEVE NOW EXISTS TO SPEED UP PROCESS AIMED AT
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GREEK REINTEGRATION.

2. WE WOULD ONLY UNDERLINE ONE ASPECT OF REFTEL'S
EVALUATION OF CARAMANLIS' DOMESTIC POLITICAL NEEDS.
NATO'S PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE QUICKLY RELAYED TO AN
ATHENS AUDIENCE THAT DOES NOT YET, TO SOME UNMEASURED
EXTENT, FIND NATO REENTRY ACCEPTABLE. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE

THE ATTRACTIVENESS TO THE GREEK LEFT OF REENTRY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT ALIENATING NATO SUPPORTERS AT THE CENTER AND RIGHT, WE EXPECT THAT CARAMANLIS WILL STICK WITH THE TERM "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" -- ON HE DEEMS TOLERATED AND THUS SALEABLE. NATO THEREFORE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER TALKING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT IT RATHER THAN TALKING "BY" GREECE.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT -- THE "BRIDGE" THAT CARAMANLIS MENTIONED TO SECRETARY VANCE LAST MONTH AND THAT THE GOG CALLS THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" -- WILL ALSO DIRECTLY IMPACT ON GREEK WILLINGNESS TO SIGN THEIR DCA WITH US. THE TARGET OF THE MAY 30-31 NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, REINFORCED AS IT IS IN THE GREEK PUBLIC'S VIEW BY THE APPROACHING IZMIR NATO COMMAND CHANGES, MIGHT EVEN OFFER US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A VANCE-PAPALIGOURAS DCA SIGNING THEN IF SOME SORT OF REINTEGRATION PRINCIPLES OR FRAMEWORK CAN ALSO BE AGREED.

4. THE FIRST FRESH INDICATION OF HOW SERIOUS THE GREEKS ARE ABOUT THE PACE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF REINTEGRATION WILL COME AS THE GOG RESPONDS TO NATO'S QUESTIONS. THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN THIS EXPLORATORY PHASE AND THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FOLLOW CAN BEST BE NUDGED ALONG FROM ATHENS, AND THE EMBASSY STANDS READY TO PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT. MILLS UNQTE VANCE

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